I ſhall firſt ſpeak of what is commonly called *Peg-Top*. Of theſe there are very few good ones, and the methods generally taken by young artiſts to make them good, are highly abſurd and ridiculous. The principal recommendations of a top are, the ſize of it, and the number of acorns (as they are called) on the peg; but if the top does not feel light in the hand while ſpinning there, it is inſtantly pronounced a bad one, and a thouſand various tricks are tried to remove this ſad and terrible failing. In this caſe the peg is inſtantly drawn, which is generally performed in this manner: The middle of the top-ſtring is tied faſt to the peg, and then the artiſt, taking hold of both ends of the ſtring, beats the head againſt a poſt, till it flies off. The peg is then either dipped in ſome magic liquor, or wrapped round with a little hair, a feather, or indeed no matter what, for every thing is tried that can be thought on. I have heard ſome boys recommend, as an infallible remedy, the dipping of the peg in an apple-pudding, a cheeſecake, or a cuſtard; but I am convinced it is no matter which they try, ſince they are all equally good—for

for nothing. The peg is then faſtened in again, and the evil is rather increaſed than removed. The peg muſt come out again, and the head muſt conſequently undergo a ſecond bruiſing againſt the poſt. Trial after trial is made to no purpoſe; and the top, from being but a day or two ago a new one, is now ſo battered and bruiſed, that it looks like an old one, and is therefore thrown away in a pet with the utmoſt diſſatisfaction and contempt.

It may indeed frequently be neceſſary to draw the peg of a new top; but this ſhould always be done with the aſſiſtance of a vice, when the head will receive very little, if any injury. Having now laughed at the modern practice of making a top light, I ſhall proceed to point out wherein the error lies, and offer ſome new improvements in the inſtrument of ſo much pleaſure as a good top affords us.

The head ſhould be turned even and regular, not too long, nor yet ſo round as a turnip; but the grand point of all lies principally in boring the hole to receive the peg. It is owing to this not being done properly, that the head ſo frequently

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